

Fact Sheet May 2004

Paramount Farming Company Sites Kern County, California



DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Why Did I Receive This Flier?

The Department of Toxic Substances Control will be overseeing the cleanup of soil contaminated with dinoseb, an herbicide, at the Paramount Farming Company (Paramount) sites. We would like to tell you more about the proposed cleanup and get your comments.

What Are The Paramount Sites?

The sites are eight areas within five acres of land located between the towns of Shafter and McFarland. Combined, the eight areas being cleaned equal half an acre of land. Currently, all eight areas are either vacant or used for agricultural purposes. The majority of the land surrounding the sites is used as orchards, vineyards, and field crops. There is a farmhouse residence within 200 feet of two of the sites. However, the closest developments for residential or commercial use are located in Shafter and McFarland, both about two to three miles away from the nearest of the sites.

Since at least 1972, the sites have been used for agricultural purposes and were owned by various individuals and companies. The current owners, Paramount and its affiliates (Paramount Orchards Partners II, Paramount Orchard Partners IV, Paramount Orchards Partners V, and Paramount Land Company) purchased the land on which the eight areas are located between 1986 and 1997.

Between 1999 and 2003, soil sampling was conducted and it was determined that of the eight areas, soil at seven of them is contaminated with the herbicide dinoseb at levels considered unsafe for human

30-Day Public Comment Period

Why: To accept comments on a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and Negative Declaration.

When: Comments are being accepted from May 19 through June 20, 2004.

Submit: Comments by June 20, 2004 to Kevin Shaddy, DTSC, 1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611-0522, kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov.

exposure. Groundwater at the site is not considered to be at risk due to the relatively shallow extent of contamination and the depth to groundwater (250 to 300 feet below the ground surface).

How Will The Site Be Cleaned Up?

The proposed cleanup consists of excavating contaminated soil from six of the seven areas and moving it by truck to a nearby treatment unit called a low-temperature thermal desorption treatment unit. The treatment unit will heat the contaminated soil to approximately 700 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature dinoseb turns into a vapor. The vaporized dinoseb will then be treated by catalytic oxidation. Catalytic oxidation is a process that turns contaminants into carbon dioxide and water vapor. The carbon dioxide and water vapor will then be discharged into the atmosphere. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will monitor the emissions that are discharged from the treatment system to make sure they do not exceed levels that are protective of human health.

Decontaminated soil will then be returned to the location from which it was excavated. This cleanup alternative was chosen over four others as the most effective way to clean up contaminated soil at the sites.

Contaminated soil from the seventh location will be hauled off-site for disposal. This is being done because of its location in relation to the treatment systems. It will cost more to move the treatment system closer to that area than it will cost to move soil to an appropriate off-site landfill.

The three other cleanup alternatives that were considered are:

On-Site Bioremediation

Off-Site Disposal

Natural Attenuation

Detailed information about the proposed and chosen alternatives is summarized in a document called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW).

What Is A Draft RAW?

A draft RAW is a document that summarizes all previous reports and studies conducted at a site, provides details on the cleanup alternatives that were considered, and makes a final recommendation on how to clean up the site. Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, deny, or amend a draft RAW, it is made available to the public for their review and comment during a 30-day public comment period.

The 30-day public comment period for the Paramount Orchard site runs May 19 to June 20, 2004. Copies of the draft RAW are available for review at:

Shafter Branch Library
236 James Road
Shafter, CA 93263

WHAT IS A NEGATIVE DECLARATION?

A law called the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that the lead regulatory agency must conduct a study to determine if a proposed cleanup will have a significant effect on the environment. The results of our study indicate that the proposed cleanup alternative will not negatively impact the environment. The document that gives these results is called a Negative Declaration. The Negative Declaration as well as the study, called an Initial Study, are also available for your review at the Shafter Library.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

After the public comment period on the draft RAW has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination to either accept, deny, or the amend draft RAW and draft Negative

Declaration. At the same time DTSC announces its decision, anyone who submitted either verbal or written comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the public comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. The Response to Comments will be available at the Shafter Library. A fact sheet/flier announcing DTSC's final decision will also be mailed to the site specific mailing list.

CONTACTS

If you would like additional copies of this fact sheet or more information concerning the site, please call either person listed below:

Mr. Kevin Shaddy
Project Manager
Site Mitigation Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611-0522
(559) 297-3929
kshaddy@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Heidi Nelson
Public Participant Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3575
hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

Inquiries from the media, please contact:

Lisa Gray
Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 94814
(916) 324-0936
lgray@dtsc.ca.gov

GLOSSARY

California Environmental Quality Act: A document issued by the regulatory agency when an initial environmental study reveals no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have any significant effect on the environment. Meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Draft Negative Declaration: A document issued by the regulatory agency when an initial environmental study reveals no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have any significant effect on the environment. Meets the requirements set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act.

Draft Removal Action Workplan (draft RAW): A plan in draft form that outlines a specific program leading to cleanup of a contaminated site.

Dinoseb: An herbicide that at high levels can impact human health and the environment

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a **Kevin Shaddy**,
(559) 297-3929

Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (818) 551-3842.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC'S MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:
Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA, 95826
Please print name and address clearly.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Comment:

☐ Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While this mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378.
Ask them to contact Kevin Shaddy at (559) 297-3929 regarding the Paramount Farming Company Sites

Attn: Heidi Nelson

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, CA 95826

